



MONTEREY NEWS

JUNE 1995



TOWN MEETING

Monterey's Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Mark Makuc at 9 a.m. on May 6. For the first time, townspeople speaking to the Meeting were able to use a portable microphone, efficiently delivered around the room by Paul Makuc. The poor public-meeting acoustics of the firehouse were greatly improved by this innovation.

Passage of the school budget drew the most debate. While strong feeling was expressed on many aspects of funding public education, the long discussion was remarkably civil.

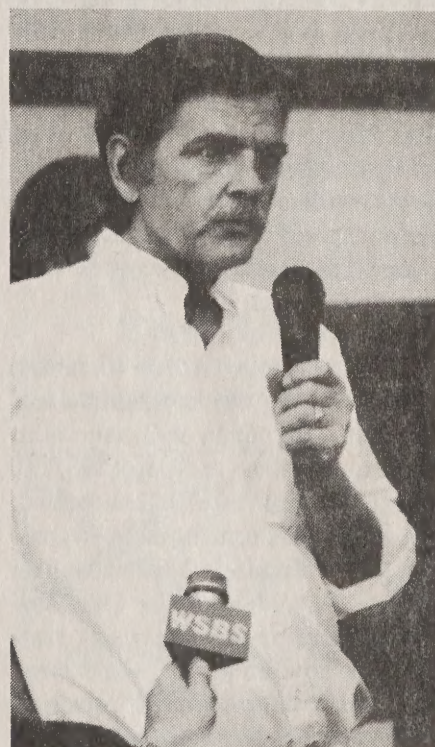
Superintendent Tom Consolati spoke first, detailing the continued efforts of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to improve test scores and to raise the number of Mt. Everett gradu-

ates seeking college education. He believes that student interest and motivation for independent learning—crucial aspects of education that are hard to measure and compare—have improved. Limited state financial support and unfunded state mandates have contributed to a budget increase of 32% over the past five years.

Debate followed, and continued for the balance of the morning. Select Board members Stefan Grotz and Peter Brown, as well as Finance Committee member Jack Ryder, spoke in support of the objectives of the District's educational program, but expressed their serious concern about repeated budget increases, and their intention to vote in opposition to this year's budget. According to Grotz and Brown, Monterey and Sheffield had reached a good faith agreement with Consolati last September that there would be no significant budget increase this year. Mr. Grotz compared the school budget over the past five years to "a freight train without an engineer"—running out of control.

Other concerns about SBRSD were expressed. Rick Mielke and Neil Orenstein supported the budget, but questioned the quality of the education offered; Jed Lipsky questioned whether hiring of personnel is based on quality or economy; and Dr. Jerrold Raab questioned enrollment figures, asking how many Monterey students actually benefit from SBRSD.

Speaking in support of the budget were parents, Finance Committee member Greta Cherneff, and School Committee member Donna Burkhart. Bonner McAllester praised the cooperation of school staff and faculty in making district resources available to her home-



MAGGIE LEONARD

...and Stefan Grotz debate the issues.

schooled daughters, and spoke of her positive personal experiences with public education. Sarah Bingham-Orenstein told the meeting of how Mt. Everett created a special science program to challenge the abilities and interests of her son. She also emphasized that community support of SBRSD reflects parental involvement in the education of the district's children. Greta had done her arithmetic, and pointed out that this year's increase would come to about \$23 per year for a \$100,000 home evaluation. Donna reminded the meeting that the School Committee continues to be accountable for long-range improvement of school performance. Another citizen reminded the audience that community support of education enhances the value



MAGGIE LEONARD

At Town Meeting, Bonner McAllester...

of real estate throughout the town.

After a short debate over voting by secret ballot, the school budget was approved on a voice vote.

Article 18 concerned the method of counting member votes within the school district. Currently each School Committee member has one vote; this is the so-called one person, one vote system mandated by state law. Monterey voters approved an amendment calling for each School Committee member's vote to be "weighted so as to reflect the ratio that the Committee member's town population bears to the total district population." Nevertheless, the vote was of no practical consequence because the Egremont Town Meeting had already turned down weighted voting, and the measure requires approval of all member towns in the school district.

Voters approved Article 10, raising \$263,000 toward the purchase of a new fire truck. The money will come from two sources: a five-year loan of \$98,000, and \$165,000 from the Stabilization Fund. This method of financing meets the provisions of Proposition 2-1/2 without an override. According to Fire Chief Ray Tryon, failure to replace the twenty-year-old truck now in service would mean higher fire insurance rates for Monterey homeowners.

After debate over construction of an access ramp to the library for handicapped people, voters agreed to raise and appropriate \$8,500 to provide appropriate access. Anne Marie Makuc confirmed

that plans made by the trustees will bring Monterey into compliance with current requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act..

Voters agreed to a 2.7% salary increase for all Town employees, not including the assessors' expenses, raised by \$7,000 to meet state requirements for valuations and statistical work. (Here Dick Tryon added a bit of wry humor to the meeting with persistent questions of the assessors as to how the "view tax" on his property is calculated. He was informed that if he came by the office he could find out.)

In other business, the Meeting approved raising \$20,000 for further renovations to the Town Offices; established a Salary Committee; changed the name "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board;" and authorized the Select Board to convene quarterly public meetings comprised of at least one representative of each Town committee or board.

Voters accepted the provisions of Section 21D of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, titled "Non-Criminal Disposition." This allows the Town to fine individuals for violations of Town and Zoning Bylaws without lengthy and expensive court action.

In the voting for Town offices, Andrea Chase Dunlop, nominee of the Democratic caucus, won a three-year seat on the Finance Committee, and Patricia M. Schoonmaker, a registered Independent nominated by the Democratic caucus, was elected Treasurer for a three-year term. There were no other contested offices this year, and although Eugene

Debs drew a vote for Selectman, Peter Brown was re-elected by a wide margin. After the voting on May 6, the Select Board unanimously voted Stefan Grotz to serve as chair of the Select Board until the next town election. Barbara Swann was present to swear Peter Brown into office for his second term on the Select Board. The same day the Board unanimously voted to accept the bid of Bell-Herring, Inc., of Newburgh, New York, for the new fire truck. The bid amount was \$246,858. Fire Chief Ray Tryon said delivery will take about a year.

On May 15, the Select Board voted to appoint Eric Montgomery to the Conservation Commission for a term expiring June 30, 1995. The Board also voted that the fee for percolation tests be set at \$100 for the first three hours, and \$25 per hour for subsequent hours.

On May 22, Joyce Scheffey, Chair of the Solid Waste Committee, reported that Roger Trucking of Great Barrington has twice been observed taking newspaper elsewhere and commingling glass and metal with other solid waste, thereby not honoring the recycling law of Monterey. The Board discussed the relevance of this information to Article X (Solid Waste Management) of the Town Bylaws, which establishes mandatory recycling in Monterey. Violations incur a \$25 fine.

— Jane Black



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All Montereyans, this is your chance to clean out old junk from the garage, the attic, the basement, and all the other nooks and crannies in your house. Dates for the free disposal of furniture and bulky waste during normal open hours at the transfer station (Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.) are as follows:

Wed. 6/28, Sat. 7/1, and Sun. 7/2
Wed. 7/5, Sat 7/8, and Sun. 7/9

The following items will be accepted in the bulky waste container: furniture, mattresses, rugs, televisions, old household items such as vacuum cleaners, toasters, window frames, screens, old doors, small bits and pieces left over from do-it-yourself household projects, etc. These items will not be accepted: demolition debris, recyclable metals and white goods (these items belong in the metals container, available year round at the transfer station), toxic materials (pesticides, chemicals, oil, etc.)

For further information call 1-800-6881. This program is made available by the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District.

— Joyce Scheffey

TWO MEETINGS SET

A public meeting for second home owners will convene at 10 a. m. on Saturday, July 15, at the Town Hall. Those whose Monterey home is not their primary residence do not have the vote at Town Meeting, but this meeting is an opportunity to share concerns with the Select Board.

The recent Town Meeting passed Article 25, which provides for quarterly meetings announced in advance and open to the public, consisting of at least one representative from each Town committee or board, to coordinate current and future Town needs and activities. The first of these will be held Tuesday, June 13, in the Town Hall, starting at 7 p.m.

COUNCIL ON AGING

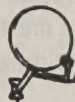
The Elder Law Project of Western Massachusetts Legal Services provides free legal advice and representation to Berkshire County residents aged sixty and older. If you have a legal problem in any of the following categories, call staff attorney Shawn Leary; he may be able to help. Toll free 1-800-639-1509 or FAX 413-448-2715.

1. Income maintenance.
2. Health.
3. Problems related to residency in health care institutions.
4. Protective Services (guardianship, mental health, etc.).
5. Housing.
6. Other issues affecting elders (Durable Power of Attorney, Medicaid planning, consumer collection, credit, loans, contracts, custody, visitation, immigration, insurance, discrimination, etc.).

— Pauline Nault

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tion, insurance, discrimination, etc.).

On April 21 a small group enjoyed a light luncheon followed by Mr. Bud Race of Chesterwood Museum speaking on flower gardens and how to make them flourish.

At noon on Friday, June 23, the Council on Aging will host another luncheon for seniors in the Town Hall basement followed by a talk on raising goats and preparing goat cheese, presented by Sue Sellev of Rawson Brook Farm. All are invited to attend. Come and meet your neighbors.



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NEWS AND VIEWS OF MONTEREY U. C. C.

A few people will be attending the 196th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, June 9-11 at Mount Holyoke College. Apart from the usual reports that one can expect at annual meetings, the focus will be on the theme "God's Hopeful Future." Loren Mead, an ordained Episcopal priest and founder of Alban Institute (Washington, D.C.) will make three presentations on the church and the future. Mr. Mead has written several books, including *The Once and Future Church* and *Transforming Congregations for the Future*. The topic is certainly appropriate for the institutional church in our society. And, more particularly, it is an important topic for Monterey U.C.C., and one that the congregation will be addressing in the coming months.

On Sunday, June 25, at 7 p.m., Amyrallis will be giving a benefit performance at the Church. This vocal group is comprised of Leigh Darrow, Nancy Peck, and soprano Marylee Kozlowski, accompanied by Marci Crisp. Everyone welcome!

Sunday, June 4, is Pentecost (the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Jesus). It is a day for celebrating the gift

of God's Spirit infusing the life of the early Christian community. For the Jewish community, Pentecost or, more correctly, Feast of Weeks, marks the beginning of the offering of first fruits. As with many agricultural metaphors, waiting is an essential part of the event. Expectant waiting. Hopeful waiting. In a "hurry-up" culture, when it seems tomorrow is too late, it is important to learn the meaning of waiting. To be meaningful, it will, of necessity, require self-emptying. The creating of interior space. The trauma of comprehending and absorbing the twin events of crucifixion and resurrection shocked the certitudes of that tiny group of Christians. And shock rearranges and empties faster than almost anything else. And with emptiness there comes the opportunity to wait, to listen, to see, and, ultimately, to live. (Why is it that when one suffers a physical heart attack, the emotional and spiritual heart often comes alive?)

Whether we celebrate Pentecost as traditional Christians or Jews, it would be well once again to allow God to be at work restoring, renewing, and reconciling. But first we must learn to wait with open hearts expecting to be visited.

— Keith Snow, Pastor
Monterey United Church of Christ

LIBRARY NEWS

Okay, let's say it's last Monday evening. You've been looking forward all day to a bicycle ride, maybe Blue Hill Road to Benedict Pond, if you feel up to tackling that hill. But a sudden rainstorm comes on—washout. So what are you going to do now? TV only has reruns or never-shouda-runs, and the walls are closing in. On the spur of the moment you decide to drive down to the center of greater Monterey, to the Monterey Library.

Turns out you're in luck. As you come in the front door, you notice a group of slightly damp people—some you know as neighbors, some you don't recognize—gathering in the Knox Room, so you ask Anne Makuc (or was Mark working last Monday? I can't remember.) what's up. What's up is a book discussion group, "Different People, Different Places," reading and discussing European and Native American descriptions of their first encounters. Anne, recognizing desperation, says you can sit in on tonight's discussion and perhaps sign up for the rest of the series—after all, there are still openings, and she knows at least one other attendee who has not read tonight's book, which happens to be about the curious case of one Cabeza de Vaca,

Monterey United Church of Christ Sunday Service • 10 a.m.

(Child are available)

For assistance & information:

Keith Snow (Pastor)	528-5850
Bob Emmel (Clerk, Trustee)	528-1321
Tom O'Brien (Trustee)	269-7471
Judy Hayes (Worship)	528-1874

With a prayer request or to join the Prayer Chain:

MaryKate Jordan	528-5557
Mary or Ray Ward	528-9243
Judy Hayes	528-1874



LAEL'S MOUNTAIN BIKE DELIVERY SERVICE

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--Scheduled pick-up/drop-off

--Lunch delivery to construction sites

--Messages, inter-business parts and papers

528-5417

"Save your gas-I'll get there fast!!"

pean in that country, who wrote it all down. You notice in the discussion leader's bibliography a 1944 publication on Cabeza de Vaca called *The Power Within Us* by Hanniel Long. Probably no hope of finding it now, you think, but you decide to return to the library Tuesday morning and poke around.

Tuesday you're all set to head off to the library after that perfect cup of coffee. But the stupid coffeemaker is on the blink. Bummer. At the library, Anne says she may be able to locate the book through the interlibrary loan service. As you're filling out the form, you and Anne get to talking about the sad state of the world in general and your coffeemaker in particular. She shares your grief about the world, but says maybe she can help you with the coffee, and calls up the Springfield Library interlibrary information service, and gets the name of Mr. Café himself, not to mention the address of his hideout (a subsidiary of Studebaker Motor Co., say) in Michigan. You write to Mr. Head Bean for satisfaction. Anne calls up a few days later to say she has a copy of *The Power Within Us* from the Ossining, New York, library—and you're off, hot on the trail of Cabeza de Vaca.

But that's not all. One Saturday morning a few weeks later, after enjoying a fresh-brewed coffee from your no-charge replacement Mr. Café, you stumble on the Monterey Library annual book sale. As you browse, you come across a missing link, *Beyond Geogra-*

phy: The Western Spirit Against the Wilderness, another Cabeza source you've been looking for. You're off again.

A likely story, you say? Maybe so, but all of these services are available right here at the library in downtown Monterey:

- A permanent circulation collection of approximately 7,000 books, audio books and videos. Additional titles, including large-print and audio books, and movie videos, are available in the library through the Bookmobile service, and any book in libraries throughout the U. S. and Canada, may be obtained on request through the interlibrary loan service.

- An on-line computer catalog and listing of library events.

- Current and recent issues of several popular magazines.

- A copier for public use (10¢ each).

- A telephone reference service tied into the reference desk of the Springfield Library.

- Free film series during the winter of classics on 16mm.

- Book discussion series.

- Annual Children's Summer Reading Program. This summer's program, entitled "Reading Is Natural," will focus on books on the environment, beginning in late June. Call for details.

- Annual book sale, this year on Saturday, July 29. Please bring any book donations you have to the library.

— Will Marsh

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday 7-9 p.m.
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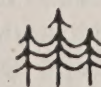
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DEMOCRATS STUDY SMALL TOWN MANAGEMENT — PART IX

Parks Commission

Here are pleasant reminders of summer in the form of information about our Town's recreational facilities.

In addition to the beach at Lake Garfield, we have two parks, Greene and Bidwell, the old Parade Grounds (at the head of Fairview on Beartown Road), the dam on Beartown, and the new playground behind the Town Offices.

The obvious center of summer fun is Lake Garfield with its beach, boating, and fishing. Beach passes, limiting use to Town residents, are available at no cost on Saturday mornings at the Town Offices. Beach hours are 12 noon–6 p.m. daily, and 10 a.m.–6 p.m. weekends and holidays.

Free swimming lessons are offered during the last week of July and the first week of August. Lifesaving is also taught. There is at least one lifeguard on duty every day, with two on Fridays, and three on Saturdays and Sundays. (Note: The Parks Commission has an opening for one lifeguard. If you are interested, contact the Parks Commission or the Select Board.)

Boating is regulated by the Harbor Master, whose rules protect swimmers by defining both swimming and boating areas, and the distance to be kept between them. If you swim outside the marked area, wear a red cap.

When necessary, the Harbor Master and Parks Commission help with boat launching, which is restricted by the lack of a year-round, hard-surfaced ramp. The present ramp is open ten months of the year. Motor boat registration is handled by the Motor Vehicle Bureau. Maximum boat speed through the channel is 10 mph for reasons of safety and quiet.

The Lake Garfield Association, composed mainly of lakeside homeowners, is organized to help preserve the lake and to maintain health and safety regulations. Two of their members are certified to test lake water in association with a program at the University of Massachusetts. The Association welcomes anyone

interested in the lake to attend their summer meetings; the first is on June 4.

Lake Garfield is classified as a "Great Pond," and is regulated and stocked by the state. Environmental Police have jurisdiction over the appropriate state regulations.

People fish from the boat ramp in spring and fall, from the lake, and from its overflow. There is also fishing from the beautiful dam on Beartown Road, on the Konkapot River, off the bridge on Curtis Road, and even off the bridge in the middle of Monterey.

Greene Park is the place for softball and baseball; it is a much-used and admired field—with some new bleachers. It also provides a basketball court.

Bidwell Park, along the Konkapot in the woods behind the General Store, is a beautiful spot for picnics and even weddings on occasion. However, the single-lane road leading into the park prohibits driving down or parking. Park by the Town Offices (Greene Park) and walk from there across Route 23 into Bidwell Park.

The Old Parade Grounds on Beartown Road, marked by a bronze plaque, is kept mowed for public use. It's fine for picnics, kite flying, and time away from your phone. Go take a look!

The dam, east of the Parade Ground on Beartown Road, is a beautiful, peaceful place used for fishing and occasionally for meetings, weather permitting.

Last year the Town voted to fund the purchase of playground equipment, which was installed with the help of volunteers. The playground is clearly visible behind the Town Offices, attracting more happy children all the time.

Parks Commission meetings (the first and third Thursday of June, July, and August) are open to the public for exchange of information and suggestions.

The Commission is answerable to the Select Board, but also has to work within state mandates governing development and maintenance of all park areas, and must abide by the Prevailing

Wage Law. However, Monterey's Parks Commission has proven its independence and imagination by raising \$40,000 in donations to build the ice skating rink (inside the Fire Company's pavilion). With the Berkshire Taconic Foundation handling the donations, they extended the Pavilion, installed excellent lighting, and offer skating instruction one night a week, family night on Saturdays, and ice hockey two nights and Sunday mornings through the winter season.

The Commission has considered building tennis courts for many years, and is now ready to hear how much interest there is in the project. If this group decides to do it, they are certain to carry it out! Summer residents are reportedly pleased with all the recreational improvements, as we all are.



Solid Waste Committee

Ours is the only Town-appointed Solid Waste Committee in Berkshire County. In the April *Monterey News* Joyce Scheffey explained recent developments. The Master Garbologist, based in New Marlborough, is now Monterey's recycling contractor, and there are some new procedures in effect at the transfer station. We will repeat here some of the directions for use, particularly for the sake of summer residents who may be unaware of the changeover. Please check with the attendant if you are uncertain of the new routine. Although proper recycling requires extra time and effort, carelessness (e.g., improperly sorted recyclables) risks refusal of the Town's large container at the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) in Springfield. If our container is rejected, it must be returned to the Town, or sent to a facility which handles contaminated waste. Both solutions result in higher costs, which come back to all of us as higher prices for our transfer station stickers!

Paper must be piled compactly in the five-ton, walk-in container. Paper has become very valuable, and if we con-

tinue to recycle it carefully, the Town may eventually be paid for it. Among its other uses, a newly developed industry makes recycled paper into furniture. Heavy-weight, gallon-sized plastic milk jugs and soda bottles are also used to make chairs, tables, etc. Steel is also recyclable.

The following articles will now be accepted at the transfer station: used motor oil, oil filters, anti-freeze, car batteries (not flashlight or household), paint thinner (not paint), used tires (there is a small fee for these), and plastic flower pots (not flats).

The Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District has offered a plan for a collection and disposal of hazardous waste, and has asked each member town to assess local interest. Monterey voted in favor of this program at the May 6 Town Meeting. So start saving your hazardous waste items now. Information wheels, purchased by the District, are available at the Town Offices.

Hazardous household waste includes anything labelled "Caution," "Poison," or "Keep Out of Reach of Children," antifreeze, turpentine, acetone lacquers, household batteries (alkaline, nicad, button cells), paint, varnish, wax, furniture polish, kerosene, pool chemicals, votives, poisons, drain cleaners, shellac, flea and tick repellents, oven cleaner, fungicides, insecticides, herbicides, and wood preservatives. All of these are dangerous, and should not be disposed of in the ordinary way. It is now *illegal* to discard these materials in landfills.

Since the cost of this special collection was not included in the SBSWMD

budget, each town is responsible for its share, probably amounting to \$3 per resident. Proper disposal of hazardous waste is expensive, but the cost of continued inappropriate disposal is monumental.

Any funds not spent on the special disposal will remain in the General Fund. Specifics will follow soon.

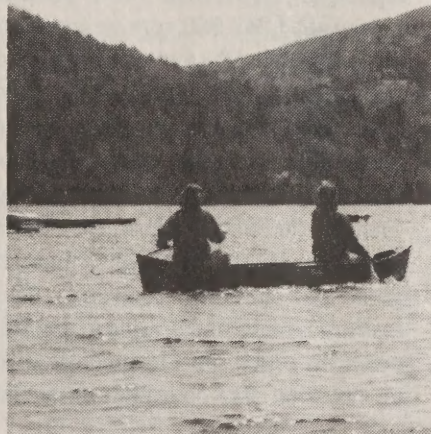
Regular Transfer Station stickers are now due for renewal, one for each household (\$40). Stickers for additional family cars cost \$10. The stickers are available from the Town Clerk on Saturday mornings at the Town Offices.

Summer schedule at the disposal area is as follows:

Sunday	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Enjoy the summer!

— Melvene Dyer-Bennet
Vice Chair, Democratic Party



THE BIDWELL HOUSE

Trees have been cherished throughout history for their beauty and usefulness to man and wildlife. They provide shade, food, and an enormous number of products from their harvest. Trees also release oxygen, which we need to live, and they help to prevent erosion of our precious top soil.

Have you ever been struck by the beauty or uniqueness of a tree and wondered what it was? Have you ever walked in a city park or a forest and wished you knew their names?

The Bidwell House would like to introduce you to trees.

On Sunday, June 25, 2-3 p.m., the museum will offer the first of a two-part series titled "Learn to Identify Trees in Summer," which includes a forest walk and talk demonstrating how to distinguish trees by their shape, leaves, bark and location. Folklore, pioneer uses, and trees as a source of food will also be covered. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children under ten years old. Bidwell House members may attend free of charge. Please meet at the museum porch and wear walking shoes. The second part of the series will be offered this winter.

This season we have something new especially for children visiting the museum. Each child under twelve can take part in a searching game. The game calls for ancient skills in observation and awareness. Everyone on the tour can get involved. It's great fun for the whole family!

Plan ahead for The Bidwell House July events. Friday evening, July 14, we will be offering a full moon "Owl Prowl." The museum will be celebrating its fifth anniversary on Saturday, July 22, with an outdoor folk concert featuring "The Old Grey Goose," an old-timey band from Maine. And we will end the month with a garden walk and talk on Saturday, July 29. Please mark these on your calendar. For further information, phone 528-6888.

The Bidwell House offers enjoyment and education for the whole family. Make this summer the time to enjoy our own national treasure!

— Anita Carroll-Weldon

WANTED: PLANNING BOARD SECRETARY

The Monterey Planning Board seeks to hire a secretary from within the Monterey community, someone with an interest in local and regional planning. Applicants must have excellent word processing and organizational skills. Ability to use Word Perfect is also necessary. Must be available every second Thursday of the month, 7-10 p.m., as well as additional evenings for an average of six hours a month at \$8/hour. Please call Kim Hines at 528-6605.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LOCAL TAXES

How would you like to pick up a local newspaper and read, "Debtless Monterey Holds Place in Sun with State's Lowest Tax Rate"? The choice of words may give pause, but the thought is completely appealing. On November 25, 1939, Monterey announced a tax rate of \$15.40, which prompted the salute in a story datelined "Pittsfield" and clipped from a local paper. The article says that 72% of the taxes were paid by the "summer colony," there were 325 inhabitants (one assumes this to mean full-time residents), and 374 dwellings. The total valuation reported was \$860,705.

If this sounds good, just go back five years earlier, to an article dated December 16, 1934, in the *Springfield Sunday Union & Republican*. The tax rate was \$16.50 on a total taxable valuation of \$809,132. There were 353 dwellings, and the "summer colony" which "pays 75% of the taxes" was attached to 90 cottages and two camps on Lake Garfield plus two camps on Chestnut Hill Road.

In 1995 we can see distinct changes in tax shares and even in town development as reflected in the values taxed or not (exemptions and abatements). Today 66% of the total tax revenue comes from part-time residents. No longer present just for the summer, these Montereyans

now come weekly, or at least throughout the year. They are not grouped on seasonal roads around the lakes, but have opened full-time roads into the far reaches of Monterey, requiring every year-round service except schools. Of our total 708 residences, there are approximately 475 (67%) owned by this part-time population: 226 on the lakes and about 250 elsewhere. The remaining 233 residences (33%), plus rentals and Gould Farm, house Monterey's voting citizens, who numbered 513 in 1994.

Of the several factors worth noting, foremost is the increase in the number of tax-exempt and tax-sheltered properties. This year they showed a total valuation of \$11,664,485, which amounts to 7-1/2% of our taxable values. In 1934 state-owned property, which then represented the greatest portion of exempt value, amounted to 5.57% of Monterey's taxable real estate. Today it represents 2%. Gould Farm, presently valued at \$3,342,860, represents slightly more than 2% of the town's taxable value, and comprises 28% of all exempt value. Other exempt properties include New England Keswick (\$903,000), Hephzibah Heights (\$831,200), the Monterey Land Trust (\$220,900), the U.S. government, the Town of Monterey, and other religious and charitable properties. These institutions add social value to the life of our town which can't be quantified, and on occasion also contribute financially

in lieu of taxes, but the fact remains that the proportion of various exempt to taxable properties has increased greatly. Moreover, an additional million dollars in value is tax sheltered; up to 90% of the tax on these 87 properties is abated under various programs. In some instances, state and federal funds are returned to the town to make up for such losses, but at

best these funds are only a fraction of the revenue lost. In the end fully taxed properties pay a higher rate to meet the town's financial needs.

Several patterns seem to have emerged. The advantage in 1934 of our seasonal colony taxing base has decreased. Valuation of seasonal residences is a smaller portion of the total, and seasonal residency itself is different in character. Pulling our tax bill on

the other side is the proportional growth of tax-exempt and tax-sheltered properties. Today a modest house on a two-acre lot carries a greater share of the tax burden than heretofore, a share which has steadily increased in recent years. Perhaps the time has come to seek some type of relief for this segment of our taxpaying population within the legal framework of the state's regulations, to help to balance the costs of running the town among all property owners who benefit from its services. Monterey may never return to its "place in the sun," but we might be able to focus a compassionate ray here and there.

— Cynthia Weber



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CHILDREN'S HEALTH

June 18 Infant-Toddler CPR at Fairview Hospital, Great Barrington, 5-9 p.m., taught by Ann Marie Hamm. Cost: \$20 (scholarships available). To register, please call 528-0790, ext. 3024.

June 26 Shaking, Hitting, Spanking—What To Do Instead? Teacher, Claudette Callahan, at Bear Care Center, Great Barrington, 6:30-8:30 p.m. No charge; childcare available. To register, please call Claudette at 528-9311.

June 15 Picnic for parents and children at Lake Mansfield, Great Barrington, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Bring picnic lunch. Raindate, June 22.

June 23 Social Hour for parents between the ages of 15 and 21 years and their children, at Housatonic School playground, 4-6 p.m. Refreshments and activities for children. In case of rain, meet at Russell House, 54 Castle Street, Great Barrington.

We are fortunate to have Department of Education grant money to add to our video lending library. For a complete list of videos available, please contact the Family Support Network at the Children's Health Program.

Our regular schedule of playgroups will end the week of June 17. We plan to hold playgroups during the summer at three sites: Undermountain School play-

ground, Housatonic School playground, and York Lake in Sandisfield State Forest. We also plan to offer swimming lessons at York Lake and field trips during the summer. We will include more specific information in the July newsletter. We appreciate the support of the community during the school year and look forward to continued cooperation in the future.

Here is some safety information from *Children and Pools: A Safety Checklist*, by Bonnie Jo Westerdorf, Cooperative Extension Agent, Columbia County, New York.

- Male children between the ages of twelve and thirty-five months are at the highest risk of drowning by accident. Their capabilities change daily, and they often do something unexpected.

- Accidents occur in familiar surroundings during very short lapses in supervision.

- Exit doors from the house should have alarms on them, as almost half the children involved in pool-related accidents were last seen in the house.

- Children at poolside must be watched constantly. Adults should not allow themselves to be distracted by household chores. Do not rely on flotation devices to protect children.

- Survival depends on rescuing the child quickly and restarting the breath-

ing process. Know CPR and begin immediately, even in the water. A poolside telephone will let you summon help after starting CPR.

- Erect a fence or barrier around the pool. For recommendations, write Pool Barriers, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207.

— Claudette Callahan

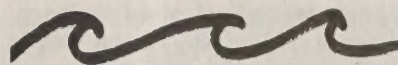


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Shravan Ngill

CONTRIBUTORS

We have a mountain of cards from readers with up-to-date address information. Thanks to all for this prompt and thorough response to our organizing effort. Every last "i" ought to be dotted by the time we mail out the July issue. Thanks, too, for your continued financial support. This month we acknowledge

Jonathan M. Harris
George M. Clark
Peter & Karen Schulze
Drs. Alice & Hugh DeMartino
Joseph Levy
Drs. David C. & Jean Balderston
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Eleanor Pearl
Daniel Sable
Debbie Reed
Ann Lyons
Ruth H. Gordon
Richard Pargamet

Virgil & Marie Brallier ("Thank you. Keep up the good work. You are improving all the time. Got a great kick out of the April issue.")

Jane & Alan Salamon ("My husband Alan and I recently purchased Art and Kitty Hastedt's home on Gould Road. We've enjoyed reading your paper—it keeps us up to date when we're not there. Thanks for all your good work.")

John S. Maxwell
Robert A. Hudak
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Ginsburg
Ed & Joan Schur
Thomas & Kathleen Gillis
Storrs & Shirley Olds
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Folger Thomas & Betty Barr Thomas
Don & Ellen Coburn
Marjorie & Barry Jaffee
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John & Lynne Gardner
Patricia Ryan
Joan & Peter Brown
James C. Pearson ("I loved April issue. It was good fun.")

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BLACK MARKET CIGARS

In the early forties, during the war, a Miss Sackman had a cottage on Lake Buel right near Hebert's Beach. Miss Sackman (I guess today we'd call her Gertrude, but then she was Miss Sackman to us) was a school teacher in Brooklyn. I had been an intern teacher in the school where Miss Sackman was a senior teacher. She would come to her cottage in the summer with her many visitors, among them her brother, who was also single, a businessman. Roma and I would walk from Gould Farm across the Fish Hatchery property, crossing the river and intervening lots to the lake. It's a fair hike. My sense of direction was very good in those days. Miss Sackman let us use her canoe and rowboat, and we would see the many people from the world of the city coming in and out of the cottage on the shores of Lake Buel. There was a playground across the way, Gibson's Grove, where we could buy egg sandwiches for fifteen cents. There were swings, a teeter-totter, and a kind of little wagon that would start from a high point, roll downhill and then back up, in the end spilling with its human cargo into the lake. A quarter could rent this startling, amphibious vehicle for an hour. Canoes, too, cost a quarter an hour. Of course, Roma and I had, through the good graces of Miss Sackman, the use of both a rowboat and a canoe.

Once a summer this kind woman would invite my mother, Mrs. Gould, and other Gould Farm ladies to tea in her Lake Buel cottage. The black woman who worked for Miss Sackman prepared delicious refreshments, and what was left at the end of tea would come with us back to the Farm. Miss Sackman used to say of her maid that while Miss Sackman went to the beauty shop to get some curl put into her hair, her maid would go off to have the curl taken out of hers. That was the sort of talk there was at these cozy gatherings. One would think that Miss Sackman's brother, hanging about on the fringes, would have found it of little interest.

Now, Mrs. Gould's brother, Charles Goodyear, was living at that time (when the war was going on) in a nursing home

in Housatonic. His eyesight was failing, and Mrs. Gould went to great lengths for him. At one time she wrote to me ("dear, dear, Harriet") inquiring whether I knew of some clock mechanism that would sound the time for her brother. And here we get to the heart of this story. During tea at Miss Sackman's that summer, Agnes Gould remarked to the ladies that her brother, Charles, living at Mrs. Brown's in Housatonic, did miss having a good Havana cigar now and then. The ladies talked of this and other things; they had a lovely tea and went back home to Gould Farm, probably taking some chocolate cake with them.

Several weeks later, two boxes of prime Havana cigars arrived for Mrs. Gould by post with no explanation. It

was conjectured, however, that Miss Sackman's brother, round and about while the ladies took tea, heard her remark and had both the wherewithal and connections to obtain good Havana cigars during the war. Moreover, he had the good will to assure that Mrs. Gould got some for her brother Charles. Mrs. Gould doled out the cigars on her visits to Charles, who did enjoy every one of them. Aunt Agnes had little trouble facing down the friendly jibes from her Farm family regarding her possession of two boxes of black-market cigars. Mrs. Gould faced down a good deal more than that, but those are other stories.

— Harriet Philips
(as told to Donna Burkhart)

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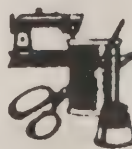
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Blackberries

They grow lavishly over the trellis
and my granddaughter, Shai, brown from the sun
takes them, one by one.
I hear my wife say, "Ho, you big lookers,"
because that was what Shai's mother, Mariah, said
when she was three, Shai's age, picking blackberries
behind Brookmead farm in Monterey
more than twenty years ago.
"These blackberries ought to be glad-hearted,"
I tell Shai, "there is family tradition here."
But maybe they are too proud
the vine having come, raggle-taggle,
from Thomas Edison's yard in Fort Myers.
Oh, I guess even a blackberry can put on airs.
But the beauty of it, the way the juice runs
down Shai's cheeks, the way it did down her mother's
back behind Tom Gillis's gray barn
when she was three and I was that and twenty more.
Remembering makes it clear. I told my daughter
then, "If you close your eyes and hold the taste
on your tongue, you'll see the taste, too."
We did, tilting our heads sunwards
the juice spilling sun's blood down
our chins, the melting berries turning the bright
summer's day to molten blue.

--Gerald Hausman
Bokeelia, Florida

Garfield Steel Band

In the still night the metal drum lay cool,
Its open end buried in the mud, its whole end
Indrawn by vacuum. The warming morning sun evokes
The trills of blackbirds, the thrills of song sparrows,
The yellow warbler's zizzing, the flycatcher's grating,
The catbird's note-cascade from everyone and everywhere,
Meditative responsorial creaking of ranarian
Versicles from one side to the other of the marsh.
The air in the drum expands, the pressure grows:
Just at 8:00 a.m. the end pops the other way
With a colophonic "boom" heard all down the lake.

- David P. McAllester

Come,
Down between the humming hedges
Warm gravel under feet
To deep-gashed, tumbled ledges
Carved by the ancient beat

Across the salt-sere grass
I will lead you to the cliffs
To heed the surf-rimed witness
Of my failings and my gifts

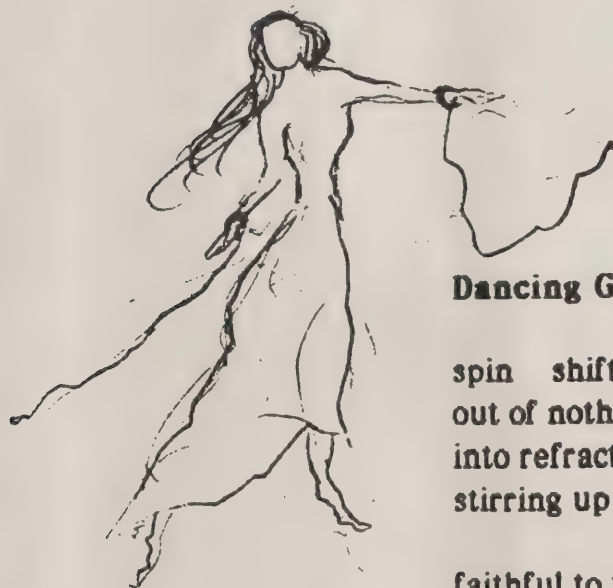
Here between the arms of rock
On the cradle of the water
The dulcet ocean-song took
All I had to offer

This is where the Siren spoke
Of someone such as you
Sibylline tones of surge-green rake
In visions of love's view

Listen now to the endless chant
Of spirit, joy and power
The incessant perfect descant
A soothing, cryptic mirror

I will hold you close
In the sun and wind's soft burn
The curling waves' caress
Till the gentle, urgent paeon
Fills your heart, and mine

Nick Hardcastle



Dancing Genesis

spin shift downdrift
out of nothing but love
into refracted rhinestone swizzle sticks
stirring up music

faithful to the ache of awe
daring Dante and Beatrix's intimate tango
Custer's catalytic cha-cha
Whitman's revolutionary waltz

standing in the nothing
a seamless ballgown of light
ripe with pubescent potential
articulate as artichokes

tongue after tongue after tongue aflame
with nothing but love

Lips and eyes
Flash in the dusk
Of memories
Held in the husk
Of promise

Every facet
We discover
Reveals a gift
Of fervor
True in spirit

Hearts in motion
Hearts at rest
Bright flirtation
Still dark nest
Of mind and body union

Lesley Givet

- MaryKate Jordan

SPRING MOMS AROUND THE FARM

We have motherhood popping out all over now that it's spring, and I suppose this is why Mother's Day got assigned to early May. When I was growing up we never got a chance to ponder Mother's Day much, so opposed was our own mother to this holiday. What she said was that she suspected it of having been invented by Hallmark Cards, or the florists of the world. She said it was a commercial trick. So while other kids bought cards and flowers we scrupulously avoided the subject altogether. When I was in college my friends called their mothers on the phone, probably collect, and asked me wasn't I going to do the same. I said I would, except for the fact that my mother didn't believe in that stuff. (Sometimes I wondered if she didn't think that every day should be Mother's Day, and that to assign mothers one day of love and appreciation out of the whole year was absurdly stingy.)

This spring I am thinking about mothers and suddenly I notice them all around me. It's overwhelming how prevalent is motherhood at this time of year. We've had a lone hen turkey coming to pick up seeds under our birdfeeder until just recently. I imagine she is now sitting tight on a nest off below our pasture somewhere. The milk goat gave birth to two springy girl kids the day before Easter, but we never give her much chance to be a mother. We take the babes away right after they are born, keep them in their own pen, milk the mother, and then bottle feed the kids. It sounds odd, I know, but we have our reasons.

Other mothers around here just now



include two different kinds of birds that nest on the north side of our house. We have a junco against the wall behind a pair of snowshoes. We hung the snowshoes on a nail there for easy access during the winter. I was about to put them away for the summer when I noticed the nest, lined with grey and white dog hair. The juncos are hanging around, chipping at us and the cats when we go out the door. Pretty soon they will start to lay.

The phoebes have also been busy on the north side, building a new nest near the one they used last year. This is only a few feet from the snowshoes and the junco nest, but the two sets of parents

don't seem to mind each other's proximity. Maybe they share cat-scolding duties.

Phoebes come back every year in March, the males about two weeks ahead of the females. They make a racket staking out territory and considering nest sites, and even after they have their eggs laid they keep yelling "fee-BEE" from nearby perching places. I've always felt flattered that the phoebes choose to nest so near to me, not minding the hubbub of human neighbors. The truth is they thrive on hubbub and have been known to nest in places much crazier than our north wall.

Edward Howe Forbush (*Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States*, 1927) tells of a pair of phoebes that raised two broods in a quarry where dynamite blasting went off every day fifteen feet from the nest. The sympathetic blasting crew put boards over and around the nest each time they were about to blast in order to protect it from bits of flying rock. Forbush tells also of a steamer ferry in 1886 that ran across the Connecticut River between Middletown and Portland, Connecticut. Phoebes built their nest on a brace on the ferry and went back and forth all day, raising their young.

Coincidentally enough, my mother raised me in Middletown and Portland Connecticut, too, some years later. By this time the ferry had been replaced by a splendid bridge and we crossed it often in those days, pursuing our livelihoods and interests the way a phoebe goes after bugs: with practicality and accuracy. We did not fuss about Mother's Day.

I hear the phoebes yelling now and I miss my mom, not because of Mother's Day, but because of spring. It's a time when you want to call your mother collect and say, "The phoebes are back!"

— Bonner J. McAllester

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A HUNTING STORY

When Art Hastedt moved to Virginia last summer, Monterey lost one of its virtuoso raconteurs. Descended from early settlers in New Marlborough, he is first of all an outdoor man, and after that a bulldozer operator, a logger, and a hunter. His keen eye and long memory added much interest to the *Monterey News* Wildlife Survey over the years. Here's one of his tales.

"I belonged to a hunting club up there in Western Quebec. I probably went up there ten times, and the first time I went was a disaster. We drove up past Montreal until we got to a town named St. Sipan, and there was a kind of bootleg flier from New Hampshire there. He would take you out, with all your equipment—just fly you in to one of the lakes up there and dump you out. Only the first day we couldn't fly it—the clouds were terrible over all that country. The next day it was still cloudy, but it was supposed to break so he flew us two hundred and forty miles up into the bush. We were like ten thousand feet high, and there was little breaks in the clouds. You could see the lakes below, and he turned that plane up on one wing and just dropped!

"I think he might have been a kamikaze pilot in the war. Anyway, I didn't know until after we'd landed and got all our gear out, this guy that was with me named Jones, Davy Jones, he said he'd blacked out coming down. I said, 'Well, I should think so!' Anyway, he went off to the upper end of the lake after we'd got the tent set up, and I went around to the south. When I got back his gun was there on the ground; he'd got up there and passed out, up there in the swamp. He knew I'd never find him, so he made his way back, partly crawling.

"It was his heart; he had terrible heart pains, and his pulse was fast and thready, and I stayed right there, I didn't go out the next day. The third day I got up in the morning, and I was around camp and he said he thought he'd go out hunting, and I said, 'Now, that's great; you wait until I tell those kids of mine how I took a sick man up into Quebec and with my nursing and feeding I made him well again!'

"Well, I packed my little day pack for the day, and he said, 'You want to wait a minute?' I said, 'Yeah, what's up?' and with that he just keeled right over, and I thought for the next four or five days he was going to die. You know, sometimes I couldn't find a pulse!

"The pilot was supposed to fly in every day or so over where he had all these other hunters in case he had to help people. I didn't see a plane for a week, and then, you know, it finally cleared one day, and this was way back; it was like seventy-five miles above where the Canadian National Railroad crosses over. Finally, on the following Saturday—this was like nine days later—some planes started flying again, and he came over. I had one of those space blankets, they call it, and I had put on it, with fluorescent tape, 'HELP,' and I had a fire built there so I could send smoke signals. He flew over and wagged his wings, and I could hear him land somewhere beyond us on the lake. Then I heard him take off, and he came back and dropped in there, and so then he picked us up. He was going someplace else, but he picked us up.

"So we flew back and he radioed in for an ambulance as we were coming in, and it was there waiting for us and we went right down to Joliette. I left him there and drove back in the ambulance up to St. Sinan, and when we got there I said, well, I'd stay the night with the pilot and go home in the morning and tell Dave's wife where he was. But the phone rang and I had to go down to Joliette and get him.

"This was right on the edge of the bush, there, and Saturday night. All those loggers were in there at the hospital. God, the hallway was full of people on stretchers waiting to be operated on. There was an Indian hollering and yelling and holding his head, and when somebody took his hand away you could see somebody had bit the top part of his ear away. There was a nice-looking young girl there crying and crying, and a couple of the nurses there that talked English said she'd been with her father—now this was pretty late at night—and they stopped to make a night deposit and somebody stepped up and shot him dead. He was there in the hospital.

"So I had to come back down and pick up Dave. I found a motel, and the next day we drove back to Brattleboro and he was in the hospital there for two weeks: he'd had a heart attack. A few of the people around here asked me how I made out, hunting! I told them. But the guy that was in the hospital wrote a letter to the *Eagle*, you know, and everybody that was in town, I guess, heard about it. Then it was in Ted Giddings' column, and then they picked it up in the *New England Sportsman*, how it all happened and this letter he wrote, you know.

"It was the longest damn week I ever spent in my life, and I was lying there at night wondering, 'Holy Christ, if he dies I guess I'll dig a hole in the peat moss and bury him, you know. Where would I keep a guy until somebody comes? He's still alive, you know: it was years before he'd go out anywhere except right around his house hunting again, and finally I went up with him to Maine. Our club lost that land that we leased up in Quebec; it was 17,000 acres, but they got on that separatism kick and wanted all that land back. There were forty-five to fifty of us in that hunting club, altogether, and we rented that land for so much a year for a preserve."

— Narrated by Art Hastedt
to David P. McAllester

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WILDLIFE SURVEY

Mammals

Bears are about. Rick Mielke had a big adult on his place late in April. He went out to photograph it (the pictures on these two pages) and the bear followed him curiously back to the house. It started to get into a hammock, played with a basketball, then bit it flat: "It seemed about 200 lbs. and was acting very tame, like a circus bear." Dale Duryea was called to cope with what seemed like the same one, on Blue Hill Road. "It wouldn't run away, it wouldn't tree, it just walked, taking its time, and even sat on a rock for a while, looking dumb." Dale reiterates his warning about food outside around houses, including bird feeders. He hopes to give a talk this summer on bear know-how, featuring some bear experts and showing a remarkable videotape.

The raccoon population is making a comeback. Several healthy mothers with babies have had to be removed from local houses. Young foxes have been seen in Monterey and at Kimball Farms in Lenox. The former were being nursed by their mother, undisturbed by people watching from nearby cars; the latter were walking calmly up a driveway. The word must be out about a human truce with wildlife: the Mielkes took pictures of a wildcat in back of their house two years ago.

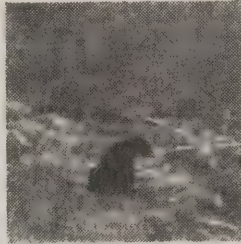
Dale reports squirrels "all over the place, including locations where I've never seen them before."

Birds

All the usuals are back. Barbara Tryon reports unusual woodpecker activity in what seems to be communications: incessant rapping on resonant places like barnsides and metal window frames. Alice Somers saw a sparrow hawk on the ground digging at the grass or perhaps even into the ground; it flew away with a mole. David McAllester had a first-ever experience when a sandpiper

landed on the front seat of his canoe, May 16, and rode down Lake Garfield with him a good ten yards. Mary Ward called on April 24 about a robin that had been battling with its reflection in her window for the last four days, fluttering aggressively up and down, over and over.

Bluebirds seem to be nesting in at least five localities: Gould Farm, Dowd Meadow, the Scheffey's, Lowland Farm, and Rodney Palmer's. At Lowland and the Palmers', four and five eggs, respectively, have been spotted. On May 9 Eleanor Kimberley reported phoebes and tree swallows in her bird houses. Wild turkeys have been seen all over town, sometimes in large numbers. Baby Canada geese have appeared on the Latinos' pond, and doubtless are also on Royal Pond and Lake Garfield,



where nesting activity has been seen.

Alice Howell saw her first-ever woodcock, "flushed by Snuffy MacDuff" (her Scottie) on May 12, and a pair of rose-breasted grosbeaks are back at her feeder; there was a painted bunting near Martha Crandall's house; on May 13, Eileen, Morgan and Maggie Clawson watched two male ruby-throated hummingbirds facing off in mid-air over the feeder, darting through the lilac bushes after each other, and knocking each other off the rungs of the feeder; they report that it was quite hilarious and the birds didn't seem to mind the human audience watching less than ten feet away. Barbara Tryon, May 14: bobolinks, orioles, barnswallows, evening and rose-breasted

grosbeaks, yellow-bellied sapsucker, white-crowned sparrow, chipping sparrow, tree swallows; David McAllester, May 15: wood thrush, water thrush, crested flycatcher, turkey vultures, herons.

Amphibians

From Loul McIntosh at Gould Farm: "In our pond behind Main House there are changes. Still some fish, including bass, but not many. Ditto for bullfrogs. Virtually no pollywogs (from last year's bullfrog eggs). On the other hand, while the lonely drake comes for periodic visits, there is now a colony of spring peepers in the first pond (that flows into the main one), and they sing their hearts out. There is a painted turtle in residence. And it is clear that a pair of red-winged blackbirds have taken up residence: in other words, we seem to be changing from a water area to a bog area. Interesting.

"The woodfrogs I mentioned last month did lay many eggs; Bob Rausch and I went back to check. But the eggs in the frogpond by Fern Trail never hatched; they are now overgrown with a solid veil of green, probably algae. I am told the frog eggs in the lagoons did not hatch, either."

From Alice Howell, May 2: "My daughter, Beth King, met an enormous matriarchal (?) snapping turtle on Bear-town Mountain Road by the culvert. Length two-and-a-half to three feet. Must have been very old. She tried to coax it off the road and waited until it finally made it, only to topple into the Konkapot and make off."





On May 4, Cora Baker and David McAllester saw one very small painted turtle sunning itself at the east end of Lake Garfield, a rare sight these days. Fifteen or twenty years ago a dozen wouldn't be unusual.

Insects

The first tent caterpillars are spreading their silk nets. One small blue butterfly (common blue) has inaugurated the lepidopterological season, along with several kinds of small moths clustering on the windowpanes at night, their eyes glowing.

Plants

Trilliums (wake-robin: maroon, dark purple; painted: white with crimson veins; nodding: white or pale pink); wild mustard; all kinds of violets; marsh marigolds; dandelions have replaced the coltsfoot along the roads (the latter are now bearing white seed tufts); shadbush (serviceberry) is all along the roads and lakefronts, their white blossoms rivaling the dogwood of lower altitudes. We have two kinds: "common," with light leaves, and "smooth," with bronze leaves. The big white moosewood (hobblebush) umbels seem to be floating, disembodied, in the shady woods. Loul writes, May 7, "Have you noticed that the sugar maples went without blossoming this year, except for the occasional handful of blossoms here or there? Did they never set blossoms last summer, or did that sharp frost this winter (after early mild days) do them in?"

Other flowers: ladies' smock; myrtle (gone wild from house sites); fern fiddlers everywhere; birch and alder catkins; acres of hellebore over a foot high; wild strawberry blossoms; clouds of bluets (Quaker ladies) in the meadows; everlasting; sweetgrass.

Fungi

Morels are up in quantities on some shady-open hillsides.

— David P. McAllester

MONTEREY GRANGE

Monterey Grange No. 291 met May 3, when Deputy Robert Peck from Pittsfield made his official visitation. Grange week at the Monterey Post Office was paid many favorable comments. The Grange met again May 17 for a three Ms program: music, mother, and memorial. Monterey was invited to attend the Fifth Degree in Williamstown, when Berkshire North Pomona was the host.

Monterey Grange will take part in the ninetieth anniversary of West Stockbridge Grange No. 246 on June 5. Election of officers will be held on June 7, and June 21 is an awards night with guest Special Deputy Fred Bardwell from Whately.

The Grange will make cookies for the Red Cross coffee hour at the Northampton State Hospital July 2. A pie sale to benefit Southern Berkshire Transportation for the Elderly is planned for a later date.

— Fraternally,
Mary Wallace, Lecturer



TALES FROM TEXAS

Cowboys, Part II

Our multiloquent friend Mike Friedman recently quit A & M Experiment Station and went to work for a man who owns a big packing company in Waco. This man runs what amounts to a feedlot operation on 10,000 acres in McClennan County. He fattens about 10,000 head of cattle at a time, shipped in from as far away as Missouri and Florida, who, according to Mike, are "about as wide as a toothpick" upon arrival. The cowhands comprise, in Mike's words, "five white employees and six or seven Mes cans." This kind of intensive cattle operation requires constant vigilance and a lot of antibiotics. Mike works nine hours a day, seven days a week.

The hands ride horses for some of the work, but they also work out of a Jeep which has been custom fitted for the situation. A cultivator seat, foot braces and a bar which comes up to waist level have been welded onto the right front fender. One man drives and the other rides and ropes out of the custom seat. It is as wild a ride as any "ready-to-die" cowboy could ever want. Of the Jeep he rides, Mike says, "Take all the cents out of your pocket and all the sense out of your brain and you can ride that Jeep. It's got four in the floor and you can get four in the air, too. That Jeep sure can put the whammy-pammy on 'em."

The two cowhands drive day after day among the cattle, spotting sickly animals, roping and doctoring them, and searching for more. They sometimes drive right over a recalcitrant bull to further subdue him. "Don't hurt him a bit," says Mike. A ranch dog who loves to ride along balancing on the Jeep's rear fender has been run over seven times and still leaps enthusiastically to his perch every morning.

Mike is a young man and enjoys the



Mike driving Peaches, using his roping saddle as a swingle.

risk-taking and excitement of the cowboy life. He nearly cut his thumb off in a roping event last year and not long after that won a \$500 saddle roping with two pins in his thumb and a hard cast around his whole hand.

We encountered an example of the cowboy personality out of control when we first arrived at the K Bar Ranch. His name was Billy Bob Wilfong, and he owned the grazing lease here before we

transferred it (with immense relief) to Glen Weber. Billy Bob's father, Burch, told Brian that he disciplined his son with a hot shot, and I guess that explains a lot. Billy Bob is a short man with sinister good looks who walks with a limp resulting from bronc-riding injuries. While Brian and I were in Massachusetts doing a draft horse workshop, Billy Bob chased our caretaker up a windmill, cussing, threatening and throwing rocks, because the boy had cut a lock off the Eljorita

pasture gate so he could drive to town to get supplies. Later, when Brian changed the combination on all the gate locks to thwart would-be poachers, Billy Bob blasted the lock off the East Field gate with his pistol. Among many examples of hot-headed and irresponsible actions, the one that stands out in my memory is from opening day of our first deer season on the K Bar.


After a dozen paying hunters had been trucked out to deer stands to wait breathlessly for the ultimate trophy buck, Billy Bob arrived in his big red truck and blared through the pastures past every stand, calling his cattle in to feed with (get this!) a fire siren mounted on his hood. We mollified the hunters, promised several of them free hunts later on, and terminated the Wilfong lease on December 31 of that year.

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Last week I was sitting on the back of Glen Weber's truck, watching him struggle to patch one of the K Bar's mouldering fences. I asked him what was his favorite thing about ranching. "Bet it's not fixing fences," I said. Glen mused for a while, said he really liked every-

thing about ranching, and then came up with an example of one of his greatest pleasures. "I like pennin' cattle," he said. "You know, when an ole cow turns and your horse steps to the side and heads her just perfect." Then he added, "When

we was bringing those cows through the long trap behind your house the other day and they was strung out just so nice and moving along toward the pens, you could see over their backs way across to the horizon in the Eljorita pasture. I was close enough to Tommy so we could talk, and I said, 'Tommy, can you think of anything in the world prettier than this?' And Tommy said, 'No, unless they was my cattle we was driving.'"

One night last winter Mike Friedman called to say that his favorite roping horse had been gored by a steer and killed in a roping event. For all his bravado, Mike was brought low by this tragedy. He almost quit roping entirely, and he mourned his horse for a long time. I picked out a dignified font on my computer and printed Mike a copy of a quote I particularly love out of J. Frank Dobie's *The Mustangs*. It talks, of course, about the cow horse, but I think it may also be a statement about an essential generator of Cowboy Spirit and Soul:

All the old time range men of validity whom I have known remembered horses with affection and respect as part of the best of themselves. After their knees begin to stiffen, most men realize that they have been disappointed in themselves, in other men, in achievement, in love, in whatever they expected out of life; but a man who has had a good horse in his life—a horse beyond the play world—will remember him as a certitude, like a calm mother, a lovely lake, or a gracious tree, amid all the flickering vanishments.

— Miss El



THE OBSERVER - APRIL

Winter, such as it was, ended in April with the season's last snowfall on the sixth. The season total was 29". Last season we got nearly eight-and-a-half feet of snow (100.5", precisely), or three-

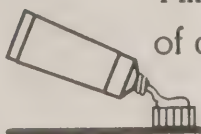
and-a-half times as much as we had this winter. Still, April was a chilly month this year, with an average temperature seven degrees colder than the average a year ago, and 1.4° colder than the regional norm.

Remember what you were doing on Wednesday the fifth? The low that day was 12°, and at about four-thirty in the afternoon the wind, which gusted to 50 mph, produced a chilling equivalent to -29°. But so what. It's May now, and the leaves are out, along with the black flies. Winter's history.

High temp (4/18)	65°
Low temp. (4/5)	12°
Wind-chilled low temp. (4/5)	-29°
Avg. high temp.	53°
Avg. low temp.	31°
Avg. temp.	42°
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	43.4°
Precip. occ.	9 days
Rainfall	3.04"
Snowfall	1"
Total precip.	3.10"
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	3.41"
High bar. press. (4/11)	30.44"
Low bar. press. (4/4)	29.42"
High humidity (4/13)	90%
Low humidity (4/11)	37%
Avg. wind speed	2.5 mph
High wind gust (4/5)	50 mph

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Shagbark hickory leaves unfolding, May 20 through May 25, 1995

VOXED

Light Talk

Valya made sure that she and Leo would be in the Berkshires for the month of May, and not out on the Cape.

I joined them one afternoon when there had been talk about working on the sauna that Leo and I started building late last fall. Before weather shut down the project, we had hewed several of the tulip logs that will become the sauna's walls. Leo hewed a few more logs on good days over the winter working alone, but there's a great deal still to do before we can light a fire and wait to sweat.

We all walked up the hill behind Leo's house to where the squared logs are stacked on bunks, the stone foundation waits, and the ground is littered with chips. Although she doesn't use an axe or a chainsaw, Valya is good at laying out hewing lines on a debarked log. It's not just conceptual work; you need a little know-how in the use of level and chalk line so that the straight, square beam one imagines within the irregular tree trunk laid flat and waiting actually comes out of it straight and square. We hew to the lines that Valya snaps; that's our routine.

But none of us really wants to work. The day is warm and the bugs are not yet mobilized for war. We savor it, lying down on the bed of chips with the sun on our faces, looking up through the trees. Valya comes here in the spring and fall to observe the effect of leaves on sunlight. Theatrical lighting design is one of her professional occupations.

"Here comes the blanket," she says. "Makes me feel like a kid about to be tucked in. That deep blanket of green full of holes, dense as it is loose. A billion green platforms, a cast net of platelets and spaces." This is a Valya rhapsody, one of her plunges down the techie hole singing a scientific song. The moment is long and perfect, the first real warmth of the season. Her rhapsody mingles with a catbird's chatter. Leo and I listen, looking up.

"Remember the eclipse? It was exactly a year ago. People gathered on the streets making a hole with their thumb and forefinger, casting scallops on the sidewalks. An image of the sun, right? The hole in everyone's hand was a camera, the crescents were photos. But here's the thing: in the woods, in summer, what they always call "dappled sunlight"—it's images of the sun. It's the fuzzy, unfocused disc of the sun projected on the forest floor a zillion times through all

those holes the leaves make. Gold coins scattered at our feet."

"They're upside down," said Leo.

She lifted her head to stare at him.

"Well, they are. If the woodland canopy is all pinhole cameras, then the images are upside down and backwards."

"And where is the top of a circle?" I asked.

"In space, or on the ground?" he asked back.

"On the ground, here."

"Um, the point nearest the north pole," he said. "Except in South America where a pinwheel spins counterclockwise."

"Pinhole," I said.

"You guys," said Valya. Leo chuckled, and we all said nothing for a long time, plastered there against the surface of the planet like kids on a circus ride, waiting for the dappled sunlight of summer.

— Peter Murkett

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Fun Mail

April 27, 1995

To the Editor:

What a treat to get the April Fool issue of the *Monterey News*—clever...fun...and lots of laughs. I usually only send money at the end of the year—but I have to send more now too.

—Sincerely,
Jane Perin

(Sigh.)

To the Editor:

Thanx for sending us the *Monterey News*! We love our times in Monterey, and it is especially enjoyable reading the *News* all winter long. The April 1 edition was a riot! I almost called "Walter Barks" for a donation to our organization—very cleverly done! Congratulations!

Present mailing procedure is fine for us! Please find check enclosed.

— John S. Ewald, General Director
Hephzibah House, New York

Who's Zoomin' Who?

April 21, 1995

To the editor:

Enclosed find my check in the amount of \$25 as a donation to the *Monterey News*.

For the first time, I received my copy intact. Most times half of the copy is in shreds.

I enjoyed this copy and your new format very much. It was very newsy, however, weren't some of the articles written tongue-in-cheek?

I enjoyed, was happy to read of the Postmaster's good fortune. For well over 30 years, I've addressed him as Mr. Walter Parks. Is it really Barks? Have I been wrong for all these many, many years?

Was interested in reading and happy too that a Wal-Mart was going to locate there. It will really boost the economy of the area!!! We have one in our city here and practically all the cities around us.



MAGGIE LEONARD

The business that Wal-Mart generates is unbelievable.

Keep up the good work. I enjoy reading the paper.

— Sincerely,
Mrs. Frank L. Fenn, Jr.
California

Isn't it amazing how hard it can be sometimes to tell when someone's fooling! We were, in our April issue—just as you suspected.—Ed.

Dun-da-dun-dun!

May 11, 1995

Dear Ed,

Dagnab it, which Son of a Biscuit Eater was it who left out the second "done" in my exposition of Glen Weber's felicitous use of the word ("Still Talkin'" May 95 *Monterey News*)?

What Glen said of a bull who apparently jumped two fences to get to a neighbor's cows was, "We'll never know how he done it. All we know is he done done it."

—You Done Me Wrong,
Miss El

Alas, what's done is done. We apologize.—Ed.



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PERSONAL NOTES

Our congratulations to **Robert Doherty** and **Laurie Abramowitz** of Harmon Road on the birth of their son. **Andrew Lawrence Doherty** was born on April 16 and joins a proud big brother, **Henry William**, at home. Congrats also to elated grandparents **Mark and Joan Abramowitz**!

Jim Edelman of Hupi Road spent an exciting and interesting few days as the stand-in for lead male actor **Liam Neeson** on the movie set of *Before and After*. The movie, filmed recently in the Berkshires, also stars **Meryl Streep**. There is a rumored, not yet set, possibility it will be Jim you see on the movie poster also! Autographs, anyone?

Michael Marcus of Joyous Spring Pottery on Art School Road was featured on the cover of the May 14 Sunday magazine section of *The Berkshire Eagle*. The subject was "Taking Tea Seriously." Michael was host last month to the Japanese artist and teacher of the tea ceremony, **Eko Yamashita**, his wife, and entourage of tea practitioners, and he arranged for a public demonstration at the United Church of Christ by the distinguished group. Michael, as an apprentice in Japan for four years, studied tea to more deeply understand Japanese culture and aesthetics and the functional aspects of the pottery he makes.

Congratulations to **Jason Tanner**, a junior at Mt. Everett, who is one of two students selected to participate in a one-week, intensive summer program at the Massachusetts State Police Academy, sponsored by the American Legion Post #340 in Sheffield. The program, which offers first-hand experience in the role of being a law enforcement officer, provides career and physical training to eligible applicants.

Hats off to **Claire Mielke**, grade four, and to **Dinah Mielke**, kindergarten, who were both winners for their grades in the recent Reading Is Fundamental poster contest announced at last month's distribution of RIF books at New Marlborough Central School in Mill River. Great job, girls!

Walter Andersen and **Alice Howell** of Beartown Road announce proudly

several family graduations. Their grand-son graduates Phi Beta Kappa from Connecticut College with a degree in Chinese, and three (3!) granddaughters are graduating from high school this year. One of them will begin studies at Smith College this fall, not far from Monterey, much to their delight. Congratulations to all of you!

Hats off to all Monterey students named to area Honor Roll lists for the third quarter. At Mt. Everett Regional School in Sheffield, in grade nine, **Ellen Hamm** achieved High Honors, and **Stephanie Hastedt**, **Sarah Pedersen**, and **Jeremy Vallianos** earned Honors; in grade ten, **Shaylan Burkhart** and **William Conklin** earned High Honors, and **Joseph Kopetchny**, **Kathryn Kopetchny** and **Jeffrey Pilot** made Honors; in grade eleven, **Kevin Ohman** and **Jason Tanner** both earned Honors. Also, in grade seven, **David Ohman** made Honors, and in grade eight, **Cedric Mason** and **Lucy Rosenthal** achieved High Honors, and **David Shea** earned Honors. At Monument Mountain Regional High School in Great Barrington, senior **Paul Makuc** earned Honors, and **Samantha Goldfinger** achieved Honors at Berkshire School in Sheffield. Whew! It certainly is a pleasure to see so many Monterey names on these lists—keep up the great work, all of you!

Very happy birthday wishes this month to **Todd Bynack** on June 8, to **Michael Bynack** and **John Higgins** on June 16, to **Sandy Gottlieb** on June 18, to **Christopher Blair** and **Pam Gauthier** on June 19, to **Jane Thorn** on June 23, to **Margrit Schuler** on June 24, to **Eileen Clawson** and **Colm Higgins** on June 28, to **Nadia Westenberg** on June 29, and to **Grace Mendel** on the last day of the month, June 30.

And happy anniversary wishes to **Sandy and Rita Gottlieb** on June 21, to **Phebe and Kyle Wing** on June 23, and to **Terry and Joan Wing** on June 29.

Any news you'd like to share? Please jot down your news items, birthdays, etc., and drop them in the mail to me, Route 23, or give me a call at 528-4519. Contributions are appreciated!

— Stephanie Grotz

PAUL W. WEITZ

Paul W. Weitz, 76, of Tyringham Road, died March 7 of injuries suffered in an automobile accident in Delray Beach, Florida.

Born on June 6, 1918, in Brooklyn, New York, the son of **Henry and Rose Hiller Weitz**, he graduated from Cooper Union in New York City. He served in the Signal Corps attached to the Army Air Corps in England and France, 1942-

46, learning cryptography at Oxford.

He moved to Monterey from Wantagh, New York in 1970.

Mr. Weitz was employed as an aerospace engineer for the Republic Aviation,

Martin Marietta, and Grumman corporations, retiring in 1984. He worked on the Apollo and Skylab space programs. He enjoyed skiing and sailing.

He leaves his wife **Ida**, whom he married June 14, 1953; a son, **Robert Weitz** of Sheffield; two daughters, **Ms. Carol Weitz** of Easthampton and **Ami Weitz** of Arlington; and four grandchildren.



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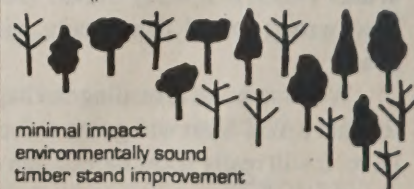
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CALENDAR

Thursdays, June 1 and 15 Meeting of the Monterey Parks Commission, 7:30 p.m. in the Town Offices.

Sundays, June 4, 11, 18, and 25 AA meetings, 9 a.m. in the Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.

Sunday, June 4 Tea at Gould Farm, 4 p.m. in Main House. All Montereyans welcome.

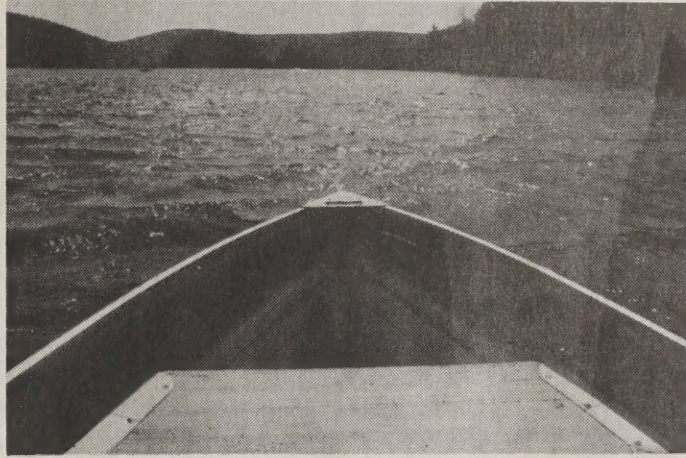
Wednesdays, June 7 and June 21 Meeting of the Monterey Grange No. 291, 8 p.m. at the Grange Hall.

Friday, June 9 Spring Choral Concert, 7:30 p.m. in Main House at Gould Farm, directed by Oren Rosenthal and featuring Gould Farm and Farrington House choral groups performing an eclectic mix of choral, folk, and popular music. Admission free, refreshments.

Saturday, June 10 Tag sale sponsored by the Monterey Fire Company, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the pavilion behind the firehouse. Information, call Gale Forbes at 528-4437.

Tuesday, June 13 First open quarterly meeting of all Town officers, boards and committees, 7 p.m. at the Town Offices.

Saturday, June 17 Dedication, Diane Rausch Memorial Trail and Footbridge, 1:30 p.m. at the bridge off Curtis Rd.



MAGGIE LEONARD

Brook Farm on raising goats and preparing cheese, noon at the Monterey Grange. Information, 528-5994.

Fridays, June 23 and June 30 Nature walk for children led by Bonner McAllester, 9-10:30 a.m., from Church basement. Register, 528-9385.

Saturday, June 24 Square and contradance, 8:30-11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Joe Baker. All dances taught, beginners and children welcome. Refreshments. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Sunday, June 25

The Bidwell House Tree Identification Walk and Talk, 2-3 p.m., from The

Bidwell House. Members free; nonmembers, \$2; kids under 10, \$1.

Vocal group Amaryllyis in concert to benefit the Monterey United Church of Christ, 7:30 p.m. at the Church. Admission, \$5, or donation.

Saturday, July 15 Public meeting with the Select Board for second home owners, 10 a.m. in the Town Offices.

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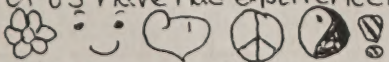
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Broker
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Our 28th year

Fax 413-528-4809

Amaryllis in concert

Sunday, June 25, 7:30 pm
in the sanctuary of the Monterey UCC

Lighthearted Harmony
to benefit the Monterey United Church of Christ

Admission Price: \$5, or by donation
prepaid or at the door

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Contributions from local artists this month: Sudi Baker, pp 13, 19;
MO Banner, pp 6, 8, 22; Bonner McAllester, p 14.

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